

“CRITICISM: FROM FALSE SEMBLANCE TO PRAISE OF FOLLY”

Credits: 3
Time: Tuesday & Thursday, 12:30-2:00 pm
Place: Buchanan B208

Instructor:

Juliet O'Brien, Department of French, Hispanic, and Italian Studies
Email: juliet.obrien@ubc.ca
Web: <http://www.fhis.ubc.ca/people/faculty/details/obrien-juliet.html>
Office: Buchanan Tower 728
Office hours: Tuesdays & Wednesdays 2 - 4 p.m. and by appointment
(please email me if you wish to make an appointment)

Course description:

Criticism pervades pre-modern European literature: across a range of kinds of writing, high and low, scholarly and popular, serious and light-hearted—even scathingly satirical. From a long continuing tradition of exegesis and commentary, through didactic works, to incorporation within works such as the *Roman de la Rose* and “quarrels” about and around them, we will see a subversive side to questioning and debate. It explores themes of social and religious critique, attacks hypocrisy and corruption, and develops ideas of privacy and identity, freedom of conscience and expression, and the figure of the public intellectual.

In this course we will explore various aspects of later Medieval literature through the theme of criticism, as expressed in a number of texts written in the Continental vernaculars and in Latin, and having an influence throughout Europe. While our principal focus will be the study of literary works, we will also explore the historical landscape in which these landmarks are situated; the cultural background against which their dramatic actions are staged; and their relationship to an integrated creative and intellectual environment—including visual and plastic arts, music, ideas, and the sciences.

Supplementary readings for term papers will include: the Old French fabliaux; Boccaccio, *Decameron*; Christine de Pisan and the *querelle de la Rose*; Alain Chartier, *La Belle Dame sans merci* and its *querelle*; the European *Reynard* tradition; Chaucer; Wycliffe; *Till Eulenspiegel*; Thomas More, *Utopia*; Rabelais; and Shakespeare.

The course is taught in English. All readings are provided in the original languages and in English translation. The term paper may be written in English or another language according to preference or program requirements.

MDVL 302: EUROPEAN LITERATURE OF THE 14TH TO 16TH CENTURIES: AY 2011-12, term 2

Required reading:

Course website: <http://blogs.ubc.ca/mdvl302>

Guillaume de Lorris & Jean de Meun, *The Romance of the Rose*
Trans. Frances Horgan.
Oxford World's Classics, 2008.
ISBN: 978-0199540679

Renard the Fox
Trans. Patricia Terry.
University of California Press, 1992.
ISBN: 978-0520076846

Christine de Pisan, *The Book of the City of Ladies*
Trans. Rosalind Brown-Grant.
Penguin Classics, 2004.
ISBN: 978-0140446890

Fernando de Rojas, *Celestina*.
Trans. Peter Bush.
Penguin, 2009.
ISBN: 978-0143106098

Erasmus, *The Praise of Folly and Other Writings*.
Trans. Robert M. Adams.
Norton, 1989.
ISBN: 978-0393957495

Requirements / assessment:

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|---|-----|
| 4-5 page paper due at midterm | 20% |
| 7-8 page research paper due at the end of term | 20% |
| regular short writing on the course blog (10 best comments) | 10% |
| final exam | 50% |

There is no pre-requisite for this course.

MDVL 301 - Literature of the Middle Ages to 1300 - will be offered in the first semester, preceding MDVL 302. The two courses may, however, be taken separately.

MDVL 302: EUROPEAN LITERATURE OF THE 14TH TO 16TH CENTURIES: AY 2011-12, term 2

SCHEDULE

| WEEK | | TUESDAY | THURSDAY |
|------|-------------------------|--|---|
| 1 | 4-6 January | (no class) | Introduction |
| 2 | 9-13 January | Lecture: prologue | Lecture + discussion Reading to prepare: <i>Romance of the Rose</i> (1) |
| 3 | 16-20 January | Lecture Reading: <i>Rose</i> (2) | Lecture + discussion Reading: <i>Rose</i> (3) |
| 4 | 23-27 January | Lecture Reading: <i>Rose</i> (4) | Lecture + discussion Reading: <i>Rose</i> (5) |
| 5 | 30 January - 3 February | Lecture Reading: <i>Renard the Fox</i> (1) | Lecture + discussion Reading: <i>Renard</i> (2) |
| 6 | 6-10 February | Lecture Reading: <i>Renard</i> (3) | Lecture + discussion Reading: <i>The City of Ladies</i> (1) |
| 7 | 13-17 February | Lecture Reading: <i>City</i> (2) | Lecture + discussion Reading: <i>City</i> (3) |
| | 18-26 February | MID-TERM BREAK | MID-TERM BREAK |
| 8 | 27 February – 2 March | Lecture Reading: <i>City</i> (4) | MID-TERM PAPER DUE Lecture + discussion Reading: <i>City</i> (5) |
| 9 | 5–9 March | Lecture Reading: <i>Celestina</i> (1) | Lecture + discussion Reading: <i>Celestina</i> (2) |
| 10 | 12-16 March | Lecture Reading: <i>Celestina</i> (3) | Lecture + discussion Reading: <i>The Praise of Folly</i> (1) |
| 11 | 19-23 March | Lecture Reading: <i>Folly</i> (2) | Lecture + discussion Reading: <i>Folly</i> (3) |
| 12 | 26-30 March | Lecture Reading: <i>Folly</i> (4) | Lecture + discussion Reading: <i>Folly</i> (5) |
| 13 | 2-6 April | FINAL PAPER DUE Lecture: conclusions, epilogue Revision | Revision |
| | [t.b.a.] April | FINAL EXAMINATION | |

FURTHER DETAILS...

... on the readings will be posted on the course website, week by week, c/o the [Schedule](#) sub-menu.

For more on the assignments (midterm paper, blogging portfolio, final paper, final examination), on grading, and on grading procedures: please see [Assessment](#).

For policies and procedures, rules and regulations, see also: [Aims & expectations](#).

All information may be subject to change: all updates will be posted on the [course site](#), and the version there should be regarded as the Official & Authoritative one.